

Part VII: Comments on DEIS and Response to Comments

INDEX TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

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1	Mark Reshkin, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University Northwest, and Member of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission	Oct. 8, 2001
2	John H. Vail	Oct. 16, 2001
3	Evan Bayh, United States Senate	Oct. 18, 2001
4	P.K. Dilts	Oct. 18, 2001
5	Gerald W. Hodges, Member, Past Chairman Portage Port Authority	Oct. 18, 2001
6	Peter J. Visclosky, Member of Congress, 1 st District Indiana	Oct. 19, 2001
7	Keith D. Lakin, Porter County Farm Bureau Inc.	Oct. 26, 2001
8	Peter E. Youngman	Oct. 29, 2001
9	Janet Greenwald	Oct. 30, 2001
10	Tom Anderson, Executive Director, Save the Dunes Council (also received by mail Nov. 7, 2001)	Oct. 31, 2001
11	Phyliss Benn	Oct. 31, 2001
12	Joan Levin	Oct. 31, 2001
13	Tim Armstrong, Lake County Parks and Recreation Department	Nov. 1, 2001
14	Joan Engel	Nov. 1, 2001
15	Mark Woernle, J.F. New & Associates, Inc.	Nov. 1, 2001
16	Bill Theis, Trustee, Pine Township	Nov. 2, 2001
17	Lee Botts	Nov. 3, 2001
18	Mark Reshkin, for Thomas McDermott, Northwest Indiana Forum	Nov. 3, 2001
19	Gregory J. Buck	Nov. 5, 2001
20	Kenneth Fee (also received by e-mail)	Nov. 5, 2001

21	Sharon Fee (also received by e-mail)	Nov. 5, 2001
22	Virgil J. Gassoway, dds.	Nov. 5, 2001
23	David L. Hollenbeck, for Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District (also received by mail)	Nov. 5, 2001
24	Bruce F. Jones (Requested change from original comment received Oct. 4, 2001)	Nov. 5, 2001
25	Christa Jones, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Nov. 5, 2001
26	Bowden Quinn, Executive Director, Grand Calumet Task Force	Nov. 5, 2001
27	Phyllis Reeder, Administrator, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District	Nov. 5, 2001
28	Alan and Donna Resetar (due to time difference between Indianapolis and Northwest Indiana, this comment was sent on Nov. 5, 2001 although it was stamped Nov. 6, 2001)	Nov. 5, 2001
29	John and Elma Thiele	Nov. 5, 2001
30	Ron Trigg, Executive Director, Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund	Nov. 5, 2001
31	Joan Wiseman, Esq. (also received by e-mail)	Nov. 5, 2001
32	Cameron Davis, Executive Director, Lake Michigan Federation (letter postmarked Nov. 5, 2001)	Nov. 7, 2001
33	Herbert P. Read, President, Porter County Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America (letter postmarked Nov. 5, 2001)	Nov. 7, 2001
34	Elizabeth and Terrence McCloskey (letter postmarked Nov. 5, 2001)	Nov. 8, 2001
35	Charlotte J. Read (letter postmarked Nov. 5, 2001)	Nov. 8, 2001
36	Andi Winninger, Watershed Specialist, Hoosier Environmental Council	Nov. 8, 2001
37	John Coulter, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District	Nov. 8, 2001
38	Willie R. Taylor, Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance Department of Interior	Nov. 16, 2001
39	Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief, Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch, Office of Strategic Environmental analysis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Nov. 19, 2001

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Commenter</u>	<u>Date Received</u>
1	Bill Theis, Pine Township Trustee	Oct. 1, 2001
2	Tim Morgan, Superintendent, LaPorte County Parks Department	Oct. 1, 2001

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Commenter</u>	<u>Date Received</u>
1	John Henoff, Perch America	Oct. 3, 2001
2	Jay Allen Johnson, Purdue Calumet	Oct. 3, 2001
3	Bob Porch, DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife	Oct. 3, 2001
4	Sandy O'Brien, Duneland Sierra Club	Oct. 3, 2001
5	Vollie Riskin, League of Women's Voters, Calumet region	Oct. 3, 2001
6	Kimberly Jones, East Chicago City Planner	Oct. 3, 2001

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Commenter</u>	<u>Date Received</u>
1	Herb Read, President Issak Walton League	Oct. 4, 2001
2	Sharon Fee, STOP Organization	Oct. 4, 2001
3	Unidentified #1	Oct. 4, 2001
4	Dennis Showers	Oct. 4, 2001
5	Mike Goin	Oct. 4, 2001
6	Pam Belts	Oct. 4, 2001
7	George Smulka	Oct. 4, 2001
8	Paul Panther, Town Council Ogden Dunes	Oct. 4, 2001
9	Unidentified #2, President, Porter County League of Women Voters	Oct. 4, 2001

10	Susan Showers, STOP Organization	Oct. 4, 2001
11	Don Ewoldt, Lake Erie Land Company	Oct. 4, 2001
12	Pauline Poprad, Chesterton Tribune	Oct. 4, 2001
13	Unidentified #3	Oct. 4, 2001

Introduction

On October 1, 3, and 4, 2001, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) held three joint public hearings to receive comments on Indiana's proposed Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) document and Draft Environmental Impact Statement published jointly by DNR and NOAA. NOAA participated in the joint hearings, in part, to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA). DNR participated in the joint hearings to provide an opportunity for the public to comment and make recommendations regarding Indiana's proposed program document. Comments received at those public hearings and written comments submitted during the comment period, which ended November 5, 2001, were considered by both NOAA and DNR. The following is a record of all written and oral comments and responses from both NOAA and DNR. Questions asked at the public hearings were not included in this section; however, meeting transcripts recorded all questions and answers during the hearings.



Warfield, Patricia

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

To: dhaworth@hirons.com

Subject: FW: Lale Michigan Coastal Program Draft EIS

Forward
10/10/01

Page 1 of 1
Frank O Bannon, Governor
Larry D. Macklin, Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Reshkin [mailto:mreshkin@home.com]

Sent: Monday, October 08, 2001 12:51 PM

To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

Subject: Lale Michigan Coastal Program Draft EIS

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
402 W.Washington Street, Room 204
Indianapolis, IN 46204

October 8, 2001

Dear Ms. Rounds:

I have reviewed carefully the Draft EIS for the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and offer comments below. My experiences with past attempts to obtain a Coastal Zone Program for Indiana date back to the 1970's. I served as a consultant to DNR and focused most recently on the efforts to determine a suitable boundary. My conclusions during the attempt previous to this current effort are mentioned in the EIS.

The regulatory climate that prevailed in the U. S. Department of Commerce's Coastal Zone Management Program were, at that time, such that I believed that a boundary, essentially U. S. Highway 12, was the most feasible inland boundary in terms of attaining local support. I am most pleased to learn that now no new legislation is needed for acceptance by the U. S. Department of Commerce. With that in mind, I wholeheartedly support the proposed inland boundary being the entire Lake Michigan Drainage basin. This presents an effective management area better ensures the protection the protection of the nation's coastal resources.

I look forward to the initiation of the program and congratulate you for your efforts and the high quality of the EIS.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Reshkin, Professor Emeritus
Indiana University Northwest, and
Member of the Little Calumet River
Basin Development Commission

10/10/2001

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

WRITTEN COMMENT #1: Mark Reshkin, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University Northwest, and Member of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
Oct. 8, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
Larry D. Macklin, Director

From: john vail [johnvail2000@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2001 10:59 PM

To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

To: Lake Michigan Coastal Zone Comments

From: John H. Vail 401 Vail St. Michigan City, IN 46360

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (P/DEIS)

It is time for the IDNR to address the problem of the silting of the Michigan City harbor in a realistic way. Michigan City taxpayers have been obliged to furnish all the local funds to dredge the channel every ten years or so. As you are aware, the federal government with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been increasingly reluctant to dredge any harbor which is used primarily for recreational boating. Such dredging has only been accomplished by our wheedling Congress for special ad hoc appropriations each decade to solve each (predictable) crisis.

The street dirt carried into the channel by Michigan City storm sewers is but a small percentage of the total material dredged. Most of the stuff comes from the farm fields and runoff in the upper reaches of the Trail Creek Watershed. The County Drainage Board has the power and authority to assess costs of clearing rural ditches to the adjoining property owners who clog it, whether they like it or not. This same law must be broadened and interpreted as applying to Trail Creek as a "ditch" as well.

To bolster your argument for effecting this change in attitude, there is nothing in that law that prevents Trail Creek, legally and technically, from being treated as a ditch.

The gut of the problem--this from Powell Travis, longtime chairman of the LaPorte County Drainage Board--is a longstanding "gentleman's agreement" whereby the city agreed to maintain all ditches within its political boundaries. This agreement was made when there was ample commercial boat traffic to justify the Corps dredging the harbor more or less automatically as needed. That situation, of course, no longer attends.

The reason this problem (of recurrent crisis dredging) remains unresolved is, of course, political. Our county council people and commissioners would incur the wrath of all their constituents in the rural part of the TCW if they enacted a law creating a Trail Creek Watershed Conservancy District. This would be a non-reverting cumulative DREDGING fund. The apathy and submissiveness of the Michigan City electorate, who continue to tax themselves with their so-called Channel Maintenance Fund contribute to the problem as well.

It behooves the DNR and IDEM to spell it out to, and for, us. It is you who must take the lead in resolving this perpetual problem.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Vail johnvail2000@hotmail.com Ph. (219) 872-7036

I WOULD APPRECIATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER. THANK YOU

10/17/2001

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WRITTEN COMMENT#2: John H. Vail
Oct. 16, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

There has been considerable attention paid to sedimentation problems in the Trail Creek watershed. In order to reduce sedimentation of the channel and thereby reduce the need to dredge, officials of Michigan City, Indiana, requested and received funding in 1991 from the EPA and IDEM, Section 319 program, to lessen non-point source pollution in the Trail Creek Watershed. In addition, the IDEM approved a \$20,000 grant from Section 205 (j)(3) of the Clean Water Act for development of a total watershed development plan in the Trail Creek Watershed. As part of this effort, a Trail Creek Natural Resource Plan was completed in 1993 and provided to the LaPorte SWCD for use in their efforts within the Trail Creek watershed. The objectives of the plan were to detail current conditions on agricultural lands with respect to soil erosion and estimated sedimentation, to identify areas of agricultural lands where erosion rates exceed tolerable limits ("T" Value) and provide alternatives to reduce both erosion and sedimentation.

According to the Trail Creek Natural Resource Plan, possible sources of deposition within the channel area are identified as sediments from Trail Creek, sloughage of channel sides, and littoral drift from the harbor. The Trail Creek Natural Resource Plan also discussed sources of sedimentation: "A review of fourteen sample sites spread throughout the watershed demonstrated that agricultural land erosion and resulting off-site sedimentation was contributing approximately 2,400 tons annually to the total of 6,200 tons documented at the harbor channel."

Sampling efforts have also shown problems concerning contaminated materials, which have required confined disposal sites during past dredging efforts. From 1970 to 1993, the federal harbor channel at Michigan City has required periodic dredging in order to maintain a navigable channel. Three times during this period, dredged materials have required a confined disposal site due to contamination.

The complicated issues surrounding the maintenance of the Federal Harbor Channel at Michigan City will require a cooperative approach throughout the watershed among local, state, and federal agencies as well as private citizens and non-profit organizations. The Indiana LMCP will support activities that improve government coordination and streamlining for coastal issues. The LMCP will also work with federal agencies on activities that require federal consistency review (See Chapter 11: Federal Consistency). In addition, the DNR and IDEM manage programs and initiatives to reduce erosion and runoff that ultimately would help reduce the need and frequency for dredging. The LMCP will also work towards supporting the implementation of these programs in the coastal region.

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

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COMMITTEES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

October 17, 2001

Ms. Laurie Rounds
Program Manager
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street
Room W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Rounds:

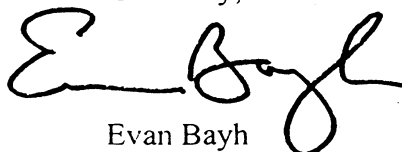
I am writing in strong support of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program of the State of Indiana. This program will lead to the protection, restoration, and revitalization of the fragile environment along the Indiana shoreline of Lake Michigan. It will focus on achieving a sustainable way of life between the environment and those living in the area.

As you know, the Lake Michigan Coastal Program serves the vital role in organizing and streamlining the processes that will lead to the sustainability of the environment along the shores of Lake Michigan. The program will coordinate local communities and businesses, along with state and federal stakeholders, to identify and implement the necessary coastal projects. The goals of the program, which include pollution prevention, improved coordination among the agencies involved, and preservation and restoration of the natural resources in the area, will all provide for a healthier way of life for the citizens in these communities.

I believe that participation by the State of Indiana in this program will improve the quality of life for Indiana Hoosiers in the Lake Michigan area. It is important that Indiana continues to protect our natural heritage and preserve the natural areas that remain. They improve our quality of life, protect rare and endangered species, and preserve natural links to our past.

Again, I share my support in the State of Indiana's implementation of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. I congratulate those that have created and advocated the program. I believe that it will not only benefit the environment of the Indiana shoreline area, but also the individuals, families, and businesses of all of northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh

WRITTEN COMMENT#3: Evan Bayh, United States Senate
Oct. 18, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program and Draft EIS Comment Form

We've been through hearings on this same subject several years ago. It was voted down. We have problems with jurisdictional areas + overlaps with the oversight in place now. We do not need another layer of oversight. Adding more regulations with the promise of money is shallow.

Yes - we must work together for clean water, less pollution, and recreation areas - we have more than enough government entities doing this now.

Having been to public hearings - there is very little indication that those pushing their agenda ever change from their original aim. They listen & discard what might stop their projects.

There are several ways to provide comments on the Lake Michigan Coastal Program Draft EIS.

Hwy 6 used to be the south boundary for control, I see it is now way past Crown Point.

- Attend public meetings and give your comments directly to IDNR officials
- Return this comment form to the registration desk at the meeting or mail to the address below
- Call toll free 1-866-500-7010
- Fax your comments to: 1-800-917-7490
- Comment via e-mail: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

Name (optional): P. K. DILTS

Organization: _____

Home or Organization Address (circle one): _____

City: GARY State: IN ZIP Code: 46403

Telephone (optional): _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Comments should be postmarked by Nov. 5, 2001 and mailed to:

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Toll free: 1-877-928-3755
coastal@dnr.state.in.us



WRITTEN COMMENT#4: P.K. Dilts

Oct. 18, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding issue of bureaucracy and regulations.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The Indiana LMCP is based on existing state laws. No additional regulations are proposed to participate in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program. In addition, the LMCP does not increase bureaucracy. The program organization, detailed in Chapter 4: Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Implementation, is based on a network approach of existing state agencies and partnerships with local and federal entities. Approval of the Indiana LMCP will not alter the state regulatory or administrative structure.

2. Comment regarding boundary.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The boundary for the LMCP is described in detail in Chapter 3, The Coastal Program Area. The Coastal Program Area defines the lands and waters eligible for financial and technical assistance under the LMCP. The draft boundary described in the P/DEIS was based on comments on the Scoping Document June 2001, past program development plans, comments from public meetings, the Northwest Indiana Public Workgroups, and scientific inventories and studies. The draft inland boundary described in the P/DEIS was based on Indiana's Lake Michigan watershed, which encompasses the area that drains into the state's portion of Lake Michigan through its ditches, streams, wetlands, groundwater supplies, and lakes. Because the Indiana LMCP is based on existing state laws, the inland boundary does not represent an area of "control" but rather those communities that are eligible to participate in the program.

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Draft EIS
Comment

The hearing of October 4 at Portage was a disappointment in that much detail was not available. The displays of selfishness and bad manners by some of those present were reminders of the previous meetings of some years ago, and any hopes of a revised approach and new proposals did not last long. The upshot seems to be that this effort is the same as the one which was rejected so soundly earlier, except that the required local match is higher.

Additional comments, which seem indicated, follow:

1. This program cannot be justified without the unhappy assumption that virtually all Government entities and the people therein are failing to perform the responsibilities with which they are charged. Still, the summary says, this program will only "enhance" and "promote" and "update". It won't DO anything except "develop a partnership". It is a proposal with no specific goals nor objectives nor any measurement of progress-or lack thereof-included in it. As such, it will do worse than just become another cubby-hole at the DNR; it will consume the time and resources that more effective efforts need so badly.

2. There is a credibility problem with the State and DNR relative to improvement and management. Raw sewage continues to flow into Lake Michigan every time it rains hard. The city of Valparaiso, for one, continues to grow and expand with raw sewage discharges as a part of their future plan. The State responded by relaxing the permissible levels, in essence legalizing the mess. With State and DNR approved raw sewage discharges occurring regularly, can anyone seriously ask why we have beach closings?

3. Reference was made to the competitive process for the proposed funds, with someone from the DNR guiding the decision. It is intuitive that since opposition by so-called environmental groups is fatal to proposals that these groups may not favor, these groups may be expected to have virtual control of the priorities, and use of funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Gerald W. Hodges
Member, past Chairman
Portage Port Authority

WRITTEN COMMENT#5: Gerald W. Hodges, Member, Past Chairman Portage Port Authority
Oct. 18, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding previous program development efforts.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The history of Indiana's program development efforts is detailed in Chapter 6: Program Development and Coordination. From 1993 to 1995 several public meetings were held to gather public comments on Indiana's participation in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program. In the fall of 1994 and spring of 1995, support and opposition were voiced to participation in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program. In response, the DNR began an extensive public participation process to gain a better understanding of the various perspectives on the issues challenging the Lake Michigan coastal area in Indiana. This process resulted in the formation of the 1995 Northwest Indiana Public Workgroups and Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel. During this time of public outreach, the DNR did not develop, nor submit for public comment, a program document proposing a coastal program for Indiana. Following the extensive public workgroup process, the DNR incorporated local priorities identified by the workgroups into the *Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Scoping Document -June 2001*. This was the first document proposing a coastal program developed and released for consideration by the public. The proposed Indiana LMCP detailed in the Scoping Document represents the culmination of extensive public outreach and participation from 1995 to its release.

2. Comment regarding local match.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

As a state participating in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program, Indiana would be eligible to receive funds estimated at \$900,000. The funds would be awarded to the DNR, which is designated as the lead agency for administration of the LMCP. Following a three-year period, funds received for program administration will be required to be matched on a 1:1 ratio by the State. During the initial three fiscal years the match will be based on the following schedule: year one match is 4:1; year two match is 2.3:1 and year three match is 1.5:1. The State of Indiana may choose the total amount of funds requested annually for the LMCP up to the estimated \$900,000 limit. The State will accomplish the match for funds requested through the use of existing personnel salaries and other State resources currently directed toward managing resources in the coastal region.

In addition, the LMCP will allocate a percentage of funds received from NOAA to an Indiana Coastal Grants Program. Recipients of grants from the Coastal Grants Program will be required to provide a match. This match can consist of cash or 'in-kind' services. Cash includes salaries, project expenses, and purchase of equipment, supplies and other reasonable items associated with a project to be conducted with funds received from the LMCP. An 'in-kind' match includes the value for the use of equipment, supplies, land or other commodity already owned by the applicant or the use of items or staff donated by a third party. Receipt of funds from the Coastal Grants Program is voluntary.

A detailed description of funds available to Indiana for the LMCP is in Chapter 7: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Funding and Grants Program

3. Comments regarding lack of goals and objectives of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The purpose and goals of the LMCP are identified in Chapter 1: Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Overview.

The purpose of the LMCP is to enhance the state's role in planning for and managing natural and cultural resources in the coastal region and to support partnerships between federal, state, and local government agencies and organizations. The LMCP relies on existing state laws and programs as the basis for achieving its purpose.

The LMCP will support activities that achieve the following goals in the coastal region:

- Protect and restore significant natural resources;
- Prevent the loss of life and property in coastal hazard areas;
- Improve public access for recreational purposes;
- Protect and restore important historic and cultural resources;
- Improve government coordination and policy and decision making;
- Revitalize urban waterfronts and ports; and
- Provide for priority water dependent uses.

Objectives of the LMCP are discussed in Chapter 7: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Funding and Grants Program. Funds received to administer the LMCP and to establish the Coastal Grants Program will be used to further the objectives identified in that chapter.

4. Comment regarding raw sewage discharges.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

Regulatory authority for combined sewer overflows rests primarily with the IDEM, at the state level, and the EPA, at the federal level. The DNR does not regulate combined sewer overflows.

The IDEM, Office of Water, drafted the following response:

In April 1994, U.S. EPA released the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy. The State of Indiana responded, as the permitting authority, by publishing the Indiana CSO Strategy in the Indiana Register in May 1996. Both the EPA Policy and Indiana Strategy provide a clear and comprehensive program for the abatement of impacts to waters of the state from discharges from CSOs.

There are 105 CSO communities in Indiana, including the City of Valparaiso, that have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits requiring the elimination of CSO impacts to the point that water quality standards are attained and maintained. The highest priority in scheduling the CSO abatement projects must be given to what are called "sensitive areas." Sensitive Areas are defined as: 1) habitat for threatened or endangered species, 2) recreational beaches, 3) down stream drinking water sources, and 4) outstanding state or federal resource waters. All 105 CSO communities must develop and implement Long Term Control Plans (LTCP) that detail how water quality standards shall be attained. The LTCP must also take into account future growth of a community so future generations will not have to deal with this problem again. The CSO abatement projects specified in the LTCP will become a part of an enforceable permit with fines for noncompliance.

The CSO problem is one that has been around since indoor plumbing was invented and wastewater treatment plants first constructed. The problem cannot be cured overnight. It may take upwards of 15 years to totally eliminate all impacts from CSO discharges. The important thing to remember is the fact that a strong and enforceable program is now in place and substantial progress is being made.

5. Comment regarding grant funds and priorities.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The proposed process of identifying priorities annually through public meetings in northwest Indiana will allow local communities to comment on what they believe are the most important issues that can be addressed by the LMCP. A detailed discussion of the Coastal Grants Program is in Chapter 7: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Funding and Grants Program.

The Coastal Grants Program will be administered by the LMCP. Administration will include the development of grant proposal guidance, an application packet, and a project evaluation form. Grant proposal guidance will be developed annually to assist applicants in identifying projects that meet the objectives of the Coastal Grants Program. To accomplish this, the LMCP will host an annual public planning meeting to collect input on the next grant cycle's priorities and to identify emerging issues. The planning meeting will be open to the public, including the agencies and organizations eligible to receive grants. The DNR will form a stakeholders advisory group to provide input for the Coastal Grants Program. The stakeholders advisory group will consist of representatives from northwest Indiana and will be geographically representative as well as representative of the broad range of interests and experience in the coastal region. The Director of the DNR will conduct final selection of grant applications for the state and forward selected application for final review by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management at NOAA.

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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October 11, 2001

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Ms. Laurie Rounds
Program Manager
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street
Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Ms. Rounds:

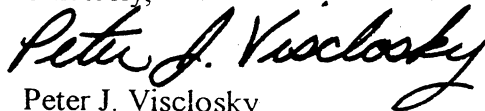
I write in strong support for the State of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP). I applaud the efforts extended by the State of Indiana to initiate the LMCP and thus take advantage of the opportunities of participating in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP).

As you know, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be the lead agency to implement the LMCP, which will initiate a variety activities such as: protect and restore significant natural resources; prevent the loss of life and property in coastal hazard areas; improve public access for recreational purposes; protect and restore important historic and cultural resources; improve government coordination and policy an decision making; prevent, reduce, or remediate nonpoint source pollution that affects coastal waters; revitalize urban waterfronts and ports; and provide for priority water dependent uses. Once the LMCP receives final approval for inclusion into the CZMP, the State of Indiana will be better suited to initiate the plan of action required to ensure the above mentioned goals are met.

I am happy to learn that responses to the four main questions that the draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) must answer have received an affirmative preliminary determination by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. I am sure this determination came after much careful consideration and deliberation.

I congratulate the State of Indiana for producing such a comprehensive document and extending their resources to benefit the Indiana Lake Michigan Shoreline. If you have any questions please contact me directly or Mark Lopez, Manager of Projects and Grants in my Gary District Office at (219) 884-1177.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

PJV:ml

WRITTEN COMMENT #6: Peter J. Visclosky, Member of Congress, 1st District Indiana
Oct. 19, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

October 19, 2001

Laurie Rounds Program Manager
Att: Lake Michigan Costal Program comments
Indiana Department of natural Resources
402 W. Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Madam:

I am chairperson of the Porter County Farm Bureau Inc. National Resources Committee. I brought the information given to me at the 10/1/01 L.M.C.P. meeting in Michigan City, Indiana to our full board meeting 10/8/01. The Porter Co. Farm Bureau Inc, accepts the proposal of L.M.C.P. with the concept that it will not add additional strain of Federal bureaucracy to the already strained farm industry, and with the hope that it may eliminate some of the overlapping Federal and State regulations.

The majority of the land included in the L.M.C.P. will be open farmland. We of the Porter Co. Farm Bureau Inc. want a farmer, land owner, to be on the Regional Advisory Board if the L.M.C.P. is adopted.

We suggest that the D.N.R. L.M.C.P. send letters of notice that they are seeking a farmer, land owner, to serve on the Regional Adversary Board of the L.M.C.P. to the County U.S.D.A. Farm Service offices, Porter County being at 3001 Lenard Drive, Suite 105 Valparaiso, Indiana 46383-2773 and to the following Porter County Township Trustees listed on another page and the office of the Porter County Commissioners at 155 Indiana Ave, Room 205 Valparaiso, Indiana 46383, that you are seeking a farmer, landowner, to serve on the L.M.C.P. Regional Advisory Board. Then a person from that list of candidates wishing to serve can be picked for the advisory board. We feel this is a fair and democratic way to choose a candidate.

Respectively,



Keith D, Lakin
1216 North 345 East
Chesterton, Indiana
Phone 219-926-3651
e-mail merikeith@cs.com

List of Porter County Township Trustees

Center Township	Charles Turnover 100 E. Lincolnway Valparasio, Indiana 46383
Pine Township	William Theis 328-E 1300 N Chesterton, Indiana 46304
Union Township	Tammy Kueck 330 W. U.S. Highway 30 Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
Portage Township	Dwayne Gilbert 3484 Airport Road Portage, Indiana 46368
Liberty Township	Margaret Ruge 892 N. 100 W. Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
Westchester Township	Susanne Phittrick 100 W. Indiana Ave Chesterton, Indiana 46304
Washington Township	Lynn Ross 436 North 400 East Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
Jackson Township	Jan Meyers 318 E. Co. Rd 1050 W. Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

WRITTEN COMMENT #7: Keith D. Lakin, Porter County Farm Bureau Inc.
Oct. 26, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding formation of the Coastal Program stakeholders advisory group.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The DNR will form a stakeholders advisory group to provide input on the Coastal Grants Program. The membership of the advisory group will be representative geographically as well as representative of interests in the Coastal Program Area. The DNR recognizes the importance of agriculture as a stakeholder in the coastal region. Your suggestion for nomination of a representative for agriculture is appreciated and will be considered. Although the specific process for nominations and selection has not been completed, the process will incorporate the input of groups representing stakeholders.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Warfield, Patricia
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2001 6:32 AM
To: Rounds, Laurie
Subject: FW: Coastal Program Document

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter E. Youngman [mailto:youngmanpe@juno.com]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 6:40 PM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Subject: Coastal Program Document

I look forward to the implementation of the LMCP.

Although I personally do not expect the Coastal Plan grants to be used for historical projects, particularly not inland ones, the Ivanhoe wreck site, as mentioned in Comment 49 on page 456, is a good example of the sort of location which would benefit from a regional initiative, as no local historical society is likely to step in to preserve or interpret that site on its own, due to the accidents of political boundaries and historical society localization.

Peter Youngman
10 Cedar Court
Ogden Dunes, Ind. 46368-8709
youngmanpe@juno.com

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WRITTEN COMMENT #8: Peter E. Youngman
Oct. 29, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding use of grant funds for historic projects.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

One goal of the LMCP is to protect and restore important historic and cultural resources in the coastal region. This goal is interrelated with the other goals of the LMCP. Therefore, the LMCP will consider the ecological, conservation, recreation, and economic values as well as the historic and cultural values of coastal resources. The criteria outlined in Chapter 8 under the Coastal Areas of Significance category, "Areas of historical significance, cultural value, or substantial recreational value or opportunity" will be used for consideration in the implementation of the Coastal Grants Program. As pointed out in your comment, increased attention through the LMCP would especially benefit those resources that are not receiving active support or management from a specific agency or local group.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Janet Greenwald [janetgreenwald1@home.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2001 12:46 PM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Subject: Adopt Coastal Zone Management!

To Whom it May Concern:

Please take whatever steps are necessary to have Indiana adopt Coast Zone Management!

It is a concept and a program which is long overdue for Indiana.

Our Lake Michigan shoreline and waters are the greatest asset in Northwestern Indiana. And through these waters, we are inextricably linked with the other Lake Michigan Basin states. Indiana should do everything in its power to co-operate, influence, and take advantage of programs instituted by the Federal Government and the other states.

The many beach closings due to high e. coli in the summer of 2001 are reasons ALONE for increased governmental co-operation and participation.

In my neighborhood -- the angle where the Indiana/Michigan state line meets Lake Michigan -- quality of the beach has deteriorated due to relocating of heavy, stony, "beach nourishment" that was conducted in New Buffalo and the community of Forest Beach.

I fume when I see the signs, STOP Stop Taking Our Property. I live a few blocks from Lake Michigan and I feel that Indiana's participation in CZM would be a PROTECTION of my property.

Yours truly,

Janet Greenwald
110 Sunset Trail
Michiana Shores, IN 46360

janetgreenwald1@home.com

WRITTEN COMMENT #9: Janet Greenwald
Oct. 30, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.



444 Barker Road, Michigan City, IN 46360 • 219-879-3937 • Fax 219-872-4875 • www.savedunes.org

October 31, 2001

Ms. Laurie Rounds
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington St.
Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Ms. Rounds:

Save the Dunes Council writes in strong support of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) and submits the following comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. We have participated in numerous planning efforts over many years and have urged Indiana to develop a program to take advantage of the federal Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM). We have participated in many workgroup meetings, served on the DNR's "Blue Ribbon Panel", spent over a year working on the "Permit Streamlining Workgroup" which began to implement suggestions about improving permitting in the coastal area.

Indiana's coastal area contains some of the most rare and important resources in the nation. We deserve more attention to these resources, both natural & cultural resources, to benefit current and future generations by protecting and enhancing these important resources.

We support the coordinated approach to manage Indiana's portion of Lake Michigan. The issues identified are all important to Indiana and Northwest Indiana. Erosion continues to be a concern and sand nourishment will be needed in the future. Water quality, especially for beaches, is a special problem because of E. coli contamination. These two issues illustrate the need for coordination and cooperation.

Natural areas protection is vital as we are quickly losing open space and wetlands at an alarming rate. There are unique and important natural resources which are threatened. Recreational opportunities exist and can be enhanced. In 1990 the national Sportfishing Institute estimated that economic impact of sportfishing for Indiana's portion of Lake Michigan was \$63 million per year. This is a significant sum that proves the economic importance of recreation and tourism in our coastal area.

Economic development is also an important element of any CZM program. Administered by the Department of Commerce, coastal zone management emphasizes a wholistic approach to protection, enhancement and economic develop based on sustainable principles. An Indiana CZM program would compliment other efforts to promote sustainable economic activities.

Finally, cultural and historic resources would gain from this program by identifying funding and other opportunities to preserve and enhance those resources. For example, the Michigan City Lighthouse, Naval Armory, lakefront WPA projects, and the like could benefit from the program.

Items we stress

Public access to the Lake Michigan shoreline can be enhanced. There are areas that are public but are not posted. Some areas posted "private" are public. We urge you to identify all public access of the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Cooperation between agencies and the public can be enhanced. There are many projects and programs that can be enhanced with the cooperation and expertise that already exists. The Indiana CZM can help unify these efforts.

Increased funding opportunities exist. In addition to the § 306 money, estimated at \$900,000, other money through §309 is available. We support the objectives identified, especially to protect and enhance coastal wetlands, and to enhance public access. Should other federal legislation pass, even more money may be available if we have a CZM program.

We are concerned about the management structure of the program and how

an oversight committee would work. We urge full public participation in that effort. How proposed projects are approved and funded is also a concern. We want to see a balance between natural resource protection and economic enhancement, and urge you to explain that process to the public. In addition, how decisions are made will determine the public support for the future of this program. We want as open a process as possible.

In conclusion, Save the Dunes Council supports Indiana's Coastal Program and offer our help in making sure Indiana's CZM program is a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas R. Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas R. Anderson
Executive Director

WRITTEN COMMENT # 10: Tom Anderson, Executive Director, Save the Dunes Council
Oct. 31, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding management structure of the program and public participation.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

Public participation is an important component in the LMCP and is incorporated into several aspects of the program's implementation. The management structure of the LMCP is based on a network approach with the DNR acting as the lead agency. The DNR, through the LMCP will administer the Coastal Grants Program; complete consistency reviews; and seek opportunities to develop partnerships among federal, state, and local programs.

Public participation is a key aspect of the Coastal Grants Program. The LMCP will hold annual public meetings to determine priorities for each grant funding cycle. In addition, a stakeholders advisory group consisting of representatives from northwest Indiana will be formed to provide input on the Coastal Grants Program. Public participation will also be encouraged in the process of consistency reviews. The federal consistency process conducted by the LMCP will incorporate public notice of consistency determination reviews as described in Chapter 11: Federal Consistency. The LMCP will also continue to produce a program newsletter and maintain a website that informs the public of projects and partnerships developed through the LMCP.

2. Comment regarding Coastal Grants Program and project approval process.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

Chapter 7: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Funding and Grants Program provides a detailed description of the organization of the Coastal Grants Program. Specific steps for the formation of the stakeholders advisory group have not been developed at this time. The DNR will develop a detailed description of how the members of the stakeholders advisory group will be selected and public notification of Coastal Grants Program decisions. Developing a grant review and approval process with local participation as an integral component is recognized as an important step in the implementation of the LMCP.

The Coastal Grants Program has been organized to encourage a fair distribution across project types to help achieve a balance between natural resource protection and economic enhancement. The allocation of coastal grants is organized by three categories: Coastal Natural Resources Protection and Restoration, Coastal Community Enhancement and Sustainability, and Emerging Issues. Projects will be grouped according to its objectives under one these three categories.

Rounds, Laurie

From: phyliss benn [pabenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2001 5:24 PM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Subject: Comments on Lake Michigan Coastal Program

As a resident of LaPorte County, I write in support of Indiana's participation in the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The benefits provided by federal funding and local partnerships are vital to protection and enhancement of our rare and endangered natural resources, as well as to the boost it will provide the precarious economy of this region. Based on existing laws and regulations, the plan poses no threat of further control, while improving the quality of life in our area.

I urge its adoption.

Sincerely, Phyliss A. Benn, 123 Regency Parkway, LaPorte, IN 46350

WRITTEN COMMENT #11: Phyliss Benn
Oct. 31, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Joan D. Levin [jdlevin@interaccess.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2001 3:42 PM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Subject: Support Indiana's Coastal Program!

Please support Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program. This magnificent resource deserves all the protection of the laws and the coastal program is a well coordinated effort to assure the well-being of our lakefront.

With best wishes,

Joan Levin
1844 Lake Shore Drive
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

WRITTEN COMMENT #12: Joan Levin
Oct. 31, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program and Draft EIS Comment Form

After reviewing the LMCP Draft EIS, I recommend it be approved. This program is a tremendous opportunity to improve the watershed along the southern rim of Lake Michigan. Many challenges face this watershed's health. This program will provide a tool that local government and non-profit groups can use to help protect headwaters, streams, and coastline in this region.

As a Landscape Architect who specializes in Park Planning at Lake County Parks & Recreation Department, our organization would benefit directly from the grants offered by LMCP. Eight of our eleven parks fall within the watershed boundary.

I give this new program my full support and hope it will be implemented. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance in anyway.

There are several ways to provide comments on the Lake Michigan Coastal Program Draft EIS.

- Attend public meetings and give your comments directly to IDNR officials
- Return this comment form to the registration desk at the meeting or mail to the address below
- Call toll free 1-866-500-7010
- Fax your comments to: 1-800-917-7490
- Comment via e-mail: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

Name (optional): Tim Armstrong

Organization: Lake County Parks and Recreation Department

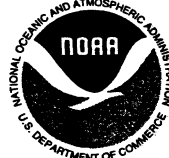
Home or Organization Address (circle one): 8411 E. Lincoln Highway

City: Crown Point State: IN ZIP Code: 46307

Telephone (optional): (219) 945-0543 E-mail (optional): tarmstrong@jorsm.com

Comments should be postmarked by Nov. 5, 2001 and mailed to:

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Toll free: 1-877-928-3755
coastal@dnr.state.in.us



WRITTEN COMMENT #13: Tim Armstrong, Lake County Parks and Recreation Department
Nov. 1, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Joan Engel [jengel@home.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2001 9:46 PM

To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

Subject: Support for Lake Michigan Coastal Program

I wish to add my name to the list of those who wish to see Indiana part of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. Nothing is more important to our state than clean air and water. Sincerely, Joan Engel

11/6/2001

WRITTEN COMMENT #14: Joan Engel
Nov. 1, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Marc Woernle [jfnwmw@mindspring.com]
ent: Thursday, November 01, 2001 10:47 AM
o: 'coastal@dnr.state.in.us'
Subject: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

I write in strong support of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The coastal resources of Indiana's Lake Michigan are among the most rare and threatened in the entire nation. I support Indiana's participation in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program and point out that Indiana is one of only two eligible states not taking advantage of CZM. From what i have heard, The program would add more than \$900,000 per year to manage our coastal resources. In addition, more money may be available through other sources for CZM states.

Based on what i have heard, the current proposal is based on existing laws and regulation and there is no need for additional laws and regulations. The goal of developing partnerships with local agencies and organizations fit well with the increasing number of partnerships in Northwest Indiana working in cooperation to protect and enhance our coastal resources and working to improve our quality of life.

Based on information i have obtained, the program should also enhance the protection of important historic and cultural resources in the coastal area. In addition to protection, CZM should promote appropriate economic development, such as tourism, in the coastal area. This is vital to the future of Northwest Indiana as our economy diversifies.

I await full approval of the program and look forward to implementation of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Sincerely,

- Marc W. Woernle
J.F. New & Associates, Inc.
3955 Eagle Creek Parkway, Suite A
Indianapolis, IN 46254
tel: 317-388-1982
fax: 317-388-1986
e-mail: jfnwmw@mindspring.com

WRITTEN COMMENT #15: Mark Woernle, J.F. New & Associates, Inc.
Nov. 1, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

COUNTY - PORTER

BILL THEIS (TICE)
PINE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE/ASSESSOR



P.O. Box 599
CHESTERTON, INDIANA 46304

PHONE: (219) 921-0133
FAX: (219) 926-4651

November 1, 2001

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204

John R. King
Coastal Programs Division
SSMC-4, Room 11110
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Manager Rounds and Director King,

Please include this letter along with the enclosed resolutions, news articles, and letters of opposition as public comment with reference to the proposed Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Document & Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The enclosed opposition to Indiana's participation in the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program was first presented as public comment opposing the Indiana Coastal Zone Management Proposal during the scoping process in 1995. It was presented again as public comment opposing the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program during the scoping process in June of 2001. This public comment in opposition was ignored in both cases. The name of the proposed program has changed over the years, but the end result has not. That result being Indiana's participation in the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program.

I ask that the voices of opposition be now given fair and equal treatment so the Governor of Indiana can make a reasoned and fair decision on this proposal. I can find no law that prohibits the inclusion of public comment that is in opposition of any proposed Federal or State Program.

Thank you for your assistance. It is critically important to the citizens and elected officials of Northwest Indiana that their voices be heard.

Sincerely,

Bill Theis, Trustee

Cc: Senator Richard G. Lugar
Senator Evan Bayh

WRITTEN COMMENT #16: Bill Theis, Trustee, Pine Township
Nov. 2, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding enclosed resolutions, news articles, and letters of opposition as public comment with reference to the proposed Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Document and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

NOAA and DNR received and considered your written comments submitted on the P/DEIS. However, NOAA and DNR cannot respond to the photocopied form letters and other materials enclosed from 1995 as they pertain to earlier informal public scoping efforts. The form letters do not relate to submittal of the Indiana P/DEIS, are not dated, and are not in response to the present inquiry for public comment on the P/DEIS.

2. Comment regarding that opposition was ignored in 1995 and during the scoping process in June 2001.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The testimony provided by Mr. Theis at the June 26, 2001 public meeting on the LMCP Scoping Document 2001 was included on page 438 of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (P/DEIS). The testimony included both Mr. Theis' statements and the letter read as part of public comment. In addition, written comments submitted by Mr. Theis were included on page 454 of the P/DEIS. The program development history is described in Chapter 6: Program Development and Coordination from pages 317 to 318, in which the opposition discussed by Mr. Theis is described.

Copies of all the petition letters submitted by Mr. Theis were not included as comments on the June 2001 Scoping Document for the Indiana LMCP. As noted in the P/DEIS, these letters were part of a previous effort and not within the scope of this public input process. However, Mr. Theis' comments were considered and, as stated on page 454 of the P/DEIS, upon review of the material submitted it was noted that many of the written statements did not support a coastal zone management program when they were written (approximately 1995).

Rounds, Laurie

From: Lee Botts [leebotts@interaccess.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 03, 2001 12:48 PM
To: Laurie Rounds
Subject: comments



Comments on draft
program & EI...

Attached are my comments on the Program Document/draft EIS. Lee Botts

====

This email was from Lee Botts:
leebotts@interaccess.com

COMMENTS ON LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM DOCUMENT FOR

INDIANA AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

These comments are submitted on my own behalf, as a long time participant and observer in coastal management inside and outside government and a full time shoreline resident of Indiana since 1990. My experience with the Coastal Zone Management Act includes participation in efforts to develop programs in Illinois and Indiana in the late 1970s. My subsequent tenure as chairman of the former Great Lakes Basin Commission included coordination for all the programs of the Great Lake states that did adopt coastal zone management (CZM) programs at that time. In my last full time position before retirement, I represented the City of Chicago in development of the lakefront rehabilitation project that is now underway.

In the early 90s, I conducted a series of public meetings on proposed legislation to create no boat zones as a consultant to the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. In the first stage of consideration of Indiana participation in the federal program, I prepared a report identifying current shoreline uses for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and recommended formation of the E-coli task force as a first step toward a more coordinated approach to regional shoreline issues.

I have closely followed progress the current coastal program for Indiana but have had no role in its development except as an interested citizen. Currently I am a member of the Lake Michigan Advisory Committee to the City of Chicago which is joining with state agencies in in developing a coastal program for Illinois. I also participate on related issues with several local, regional and national environmental organizations. My comments are based on review of the September, 2001, program document and draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

Over all, I endorse the proposed program, yet the September, 2001, document begs the following questions:

1. Will state government use the Coastal Program to provide guidance and leadership in addressing the public policy issues that are raised by the dynamic changes in shoreline use that are already underway or may be in prospect?
2. Are local agencies willing to use the Coastal Program to coordinate their uses of the shoreline more coherently and avoid the hodge podge results of the past?
3. Will the Coastal Program include sufficient education for the public and for public officials to foster adequate appreciation of the value of Lake Michigan and coastal resources for both local residents and the rest of the state?

NEED FOR POLICY COORDINATION FOR SHORELINE USES

Assumption of state responsibility for the Lake Michigan shoreline is made more urgent and timely in view of the major changes in uses that are already underway and the many more in prospect. The need to consider how the future on the shoreline will be different was first articulated by First District Congressman Peter Visclosky in his call for a new "Marquette

Plan” well over a decade ago. As he said then, the changes include declining industrial use, need for economic diversification and rising demand for public access for recreation and for protection and restoration of natural areas. Except for marina development, for the most part decisions on uses of the shoreline are still being made piecemeal by local governments and private entities.

The history of conflict over shoreline uses is reflected in the amazing current mix of industrial, residential, and recreational uses that is almost unique to the Indiana shoreline. The program document refers to many of the problems caused by the past lack of coordination or cohesive policy. One example is the increased erosion caused by construction of navigation or certain kinds of erosion control measures. Another is the difficulty of providing recreational access in the presence of major pollution sources. Another is the conflict between the public’s right to access to Lake Michigan and private property rights.

Changes already underway or potential changes include the declining industrial use that Congressman Visclosky foresaw. Will the Coastal Program provide leadership for a shoreline “brownfield” program? The state has changed its former policy of encouraging lakefill for industrial purposes (referred to in one sentence in the document), but would any lakefill already created in the past for which industrial use is abandoned belong to the public under the doctrine of public trust? An agreement between the Save the Dunes Council, the Lake Michigan Federation and the Grand Calumet Task Force suggests that this might be the case.

In another single sentence observation, the document points out that under existing state law that defines the “ordinary high water mark,” shoreline uncovered by receding lake levels belongs to the public. If, as many scientists believe, a new shoreline emerges with a permanent drop in lake , will the Coastal Program help assure public access to use of that shoreline? To do so will require that the state assure consistent policy on this question for all local jurisdictions.

To conclude on this point, my concern is that the emphasis on using Coastal Program funds for grant funding for local projects will undermine the need for policy coordination and perpetuate uncoordinated shoreline development in the future as in the past.

NEED FOR COORDINATION BY LOCAL SHORELINE JURISDICTIONS

The principal purpose of the Coastal Program is stated as “to incorporate local priorities into the Lake Michigan Coastal Program.” The program will include an annual process to identify local priorities. The agency efforts to obtain public review and comment on the proposed program are commendable, yet the September, 2001, document contains no comments from municipalities or other jurisdictions listed in Appendix F has having been provided with information during the scoping process.

This means that there is no indication whether the agencies with which the DNR needs to develop partnerships in the Coastal Program are interested or willing to participate. I suspect they will indeed be interested in seeking grant funding for projects. Yet lack of indication about the kind of projects or actions for which shoreline municipal or other agencies might obtain funding from the coastal program provides a reasonable basis for the distrust of such a program reflected in comments from some members of the public. Has there been discussion behind closed doors?

The regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act require that comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement be documented in the final EIS. The document provides extensive information about authorities of the state on paper, but lacking evidence, there is no basis for the public to know whether the other agencies are willing to work with the DNR in partnerships rather than strictly through regulatory processes. In this case, it seems necessary for the DNR to report in the final EIS the foundation for its belief that local jurisdictions will in fact work cooperatively for development and implementation of coordinated policies rather than just compete for grants from the Coastal Program.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATING INDIANA CITIZENS

My final comment is about the sketchy comments on use of the Coastal Program for education and for fostering appreciation for the value of the Lake Michigan shoreline to all the residents of Indiana. Again, there is a great need for change for the future compared to the past. The lack of knowledge of and the distorted knowledge of the Lake Michigan shoreline region in the rest of the state has persisted historically from the earliest days. Even locally, perhaps because of the limited public access, many residents of Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties are not familiar with the shoreline and lack understanding of Lake Michigan.

At the Indian Dunes Environmental Learning Center, we are astounded at the number of elementary and even high school students who visit the shoreline for the first time in our educational programs. On the evaluation forms completed at the end of programs, many students identify their experience on the shoreline as the highlight of their experience.

I urge that Indiana follow the lead of our neighbors in Michigan and Ohio to include major educational efforts throughout the state in the Coastal Program. Both states work with not for profit organizations not just to inform citizens but to involve them in celebrating the wonders of their Great Lakes shorelines. In Ohio, Lake Erie Week is a major summer event. In Michigan, many local festivals celebrate the four lakes on which this state has shorelines.

I have seen Indiana identified as "an inland state" in publications produced in Indianapolis. I propose that the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program take the lead for creation of such celebrations not just in this region but also at least in Indianapolis and perhaps even in Kokomo and other places unaware that Indiana is, in fact, a Great Lake state.

CONCLUSION

In summary, again I endorse the proposed Coastal Program but urge that it articulate a vision for making the Lake Michigan shoreline more accessible and more appreciated by the public at large. I urge also that grant funding be provided only for local projects consistent with a larger vision that is reflected in local practices that are consistent with state policies as well as regulatory authorities.

Respectively submitted,

Lee Botts
9731 Pine Place
Gary, Indiana 46403-1851

WRITTEN COMMENT #17: Lee Botts

Nov. 3, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comments regarding "Will state government use the Coastal Program to provide guidance and leadership in addressing the public policy issues that are raised by the dynamic changes in shoreline use that are already underway or may be in prospect?"

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The LMCP will work toward improving government decision-making and coordination. Working with the entities involved in policy issues that affect the coastal region will be an important aspect of achieving this goal. The LMCP will work through the Coastal Program Network, discussed in Chapter 4: Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Implementation, to address policy issues that affect the coastal region.

The boundary of jurisdiction with respect to a navigable waterway, such as Lake Michigan, is its "ordinary high watermark." The definition for the ordinary high watermark of a navigable waterway used by the Army Corps has been adopted by rule by the NRC (312 IAC 1-1-26(2)). The adopted definition sets the ordinary high watermark for Lake Michigan at 581.5 feet I.G.L.D., 1985 (582.252 feet N.G.V.D., 1929). This boundary of jurisdiction is consistently used by Indiana to identify shoreline areas within the public domain and therefore areas subject to the public trust doctrine.

The physical area of a navigable river or lake is what is included within its ordinary high watermark. Because water levels raise and lower periodically, the actual water's edge at any particular time is likely to be inside or outside the legal boundaries of state jurisdiction. The practical result is that sandbars or portions of the banks of a river during a low-water period are likely to be within the ordinary high watermark and public domain. Similarly, beaches along Lake Michigan, which emerge during low-water periods, are public domain. Conversely, areas above elevation 581.5 feet, I.G.L.D. 1985, along Lake Michigan are the private property of the riparian owner, even though inundated during periods of high water.

Lakefill areas were permitted by Indiana state law and a land patent was issued to the applicant. Application of the public trust doctrine to lakefill areas would depend upon the transfer clauses in the land patent.

The LMCP will determine if activities such as brownfield redevelopment and the identification of public beach areas will be program priorities based on the input provided during public meetings in northwest Indiana and the input of the stakeholders advisory group. Utilizing public and stakeholder input, the LMCP will seek to achieve a balance in resources used for effective program administration and resources used to form partnerships through a Coastal Grants Program.

2. Comments regarding, "Are local agencies willing to use the Coastal Program to coordinate their uses of the shoreline more coherently and avoid the hodge podge results of the past?"

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The LMCP will act as a partner in the regional effort to protect, restore, and responsibly develop Indiana's coastal areas. Implementation of the LMCP will not limit or alter the legal jurisdiction of local government over local land use decisions. However, the LMCP will seek opportunities to form partnerships on regional issues, to provide technical assistance, and to bring heightened attention to

Coastal Areas of Significance. In addition, the Coastal Grants Program will encourage partnerships and long-term planning by local agencies for projects funded by the LMCP.

The LMCP document details in Chapter 7: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Funding and Grants Program the types of eligible projects that municipal or other agencies can obtain funding for through the Coastal Grants Program; specifically, page 327 of the P/DEIS lists the objectives that projects must meet to qualify for funding.

During the 2001 scoping process, the DNR met with several local agencies and municipalities to discuss the LMCP and gain their input on local participation and potential partnerships. Overall, local agencies and municipalities indicated their interest in participating in the implementation of the LMCP. It was also indicated that partnerships with the LMCP could assist in their efforts to manage coastal resources including efforts for natural resources protection, recreation, revitalization, and economic enhancement. In addition, several local agencies have participated in public hearings and submitted comments on the P/DEIS. The LMCP will continue to work with local agencies and municipalities on coastal management issues.

The LMCP sets forth a framework, based on existing policies, laws, and programs, that links existing agencies and laws into a comprehensive system. Through networking among members, state and local perspectives on the management of coastal resources can be integrated. The network will lead to improved coordination, clear establishment of priority issues, and a well-focused effort to meet those priorities.

3. Comments regarding, "Will the Coastal Program include sufficient education for the public and for public officials to foster adequate appreciation of the value of Lake Michigan and coastal resources for both local residents and the rest of the state?"

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The LMCP recognizes the importance of education and outreach for gaining support for the protection and restoration of Indiana's coastal resources at the national, state, and local levels. Eligible education and outreach projects will be supported through the Coastal Grants Program. In addition, by forming a partnership with the federal Coastal Zone Management Program and participating in the network of coastal states, Indiana will have increased opportunities to participate in national and regional education and outreach initiatives.

Technical assistance is also an important component of the LMCP. The LMCP proposes to utilize the Coastal Grants Program, the development of the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Management Plan, and the process of identifying Coastal Areas of Significance to provide technical assistance to coastal resource management professionals. In addition, by participating in the network of coastal states, Indiana will be able to participate in training and workshops coordinated with other state, federal, and local agencies and organizations. Participation in national and regional research projects would also be possible through the participation in the federal program.

The LMCP will support activities for education, outreach, and technical assistance based on input by the public during annual meetings in northwest Indiana and by the stakeholders advisory group.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Mark Reshkin [mreshkin@home.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 03, 2001 10:33 AM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Subject: Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
402 W.Washington Street, Room 204
Indianapolis, IN 46204

November 3, 2001

Dear Ms. Rounds:

I have reviewed carefully the Draft EIS for the Lake Michigan Coastal Program in my role as Director of Environmental Affairs for the Northwest Indiana Forum and have reviewed them with Thomas McDermott, Forum President and offer comments below on his behalf. My experiences with past attempts to obtain a Coastal Zone Program for Indiana date back to the 1970's. I served as a consultant to DNR during a previous attempt to establish a coastal program and focused my efforts on determining a suitable boundary. My conclusions during the attempt previous to this current effort are mentioned in the EIS.

The regulatory climate that prevailed in the U. S. Department of Commerce's Coastal Zone Management Program were, at that time, such that it was difficult to support approval because of several requirements that would have imposed additional constraints on urgently needed economic growth in Indiana's coastal area. The Forum is most pleased to learn that now no new legislation is needed for acceptance by the U. S. Department of Commerce. With that in mind, the Northwest Indiana Forum supports the establishment of an Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program. This program presents effective opportunities to enhance the natural resources in northwest Indiana and their enjoyment, preservation and enhancement. We look forward to opportunities to partner with you in reaching the goals of the program.

We look forward to the initiation of the program and congratulate you for your efforts and the high quality of the EIS.

President

Sincerely yours,
Mark Reshkin for Thomas McDermott,

Northwest Indiana Forum

Basin Development Commission

11/6/2001

WRITTEN COMMENT #18: Mark Reshkin, for Thomas McDermott, Northwest Indiana Forum
Nov. 3, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Greg Buck [gregorybuck@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 05, 2001 6:59 PM

To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

Subject: Support for Costal Zone Management

Ms. Rounds:

We need quality costal management for Lake Michigan for healthy biodiversity and to maintain the purity of our water. Please do all that is in your power to engage the State of Indiana in Costal Zone Management.

Gregory J. Buck
537 Fletcher Ave. #2
Indianapolis, IN 46203

11/6/2001

WRITTEN COMMENT #19: Gregory J. Buck
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comment:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

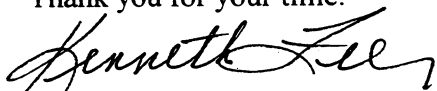
Dear Laurie,

As participants at the October 4, 2001 meeting, members of the S.T.O.P. organization, registered voters and generally interested property owners we are offering the following advice. If it is the intent of the present "powers that be" to reopen the controversial land rights issue by masking it with the concern offered at the meeting, please be advised that we are older, wiser, more informed and just as determined as we were ten years ago when Pete Visclosky, Save the Dunes Council and a few others felt they could overpower those that have owned and cared for property (yes, and as Herb Read (Save the Dunes Council) was so vocal about the land along Salt Creek); we will be watching all activity concerning this issue. Ten years ago was a living nightmare for those of us that have our lives involved in land; be it one generation or sixth generation Porter County settler descendents. This issue absorbed a tremendous amount of time, energy and private funds. We were required to attend a Senate sub committee hearing in Washington, D.C. Fortunately, those that determine citizens' future, had the wisdom to listen and know that property owners were in fact the ones to heed to. We're giving you the background to what we've already experienced as a forewarning that we will not tolerate any agency to put us through this horrible ordeal again.

Having said that, if you folks decide to trudge ahead and you do have your advisory committee, be well advised that committee will require land owners and residents as members. By land owners we mean private citizens, not "land owners" that were deeded the property by someone who felt they were doing the right thing only to have it discovered later that the property that was put into that group's care was traded, sold or whatever they deemed necessary to get their desired end result. (And, yes, folks, there are some "environmental groups" that do just that.)

As far as funding is concerned, being aware of the current state of affairs in this country of ours, it does seem as though this \$900,000 could be better spent other than a "study".

Thank you for your time.



Ken & Sharon Fee
3138 Oakwood Street
Portage, In. 46368

WRITTEN COMMENT #20: Kenneth Fee (also received by e-mail)
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding formation of the Coastal Program Advisory Group.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The DNR will form a stakeholders advisory group to provide input on the Coastal Grants Program. The membership of the advisory group will be representative geographically as well as representative of interests in the Coastal Program Area. The DNR recognizes the importance of citizens and landowners as a stakeholder interest in the coastal region.

2. Comment regarding projected annual funding of \$900,000.

Thank you for your comment. No written change required.

The \$900,000 available to Indiana as a participant in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program would be available annually and is not simply allocated to a study. The funds received will be used to accomplish the goals outlined in Chapter 1: Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program Overview. In addition, funds received by the LMCP will be made available for local projects supporting the goals and objectives outlined in Chapter 7: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Funding and Grants Program of the P/DEIS through the Coastal Grants Program. Local, state, and regional agencies and organizations will be eligible to participate in the Coastal Grants Program. Examples of eligible projects include: low-cost construction projects, such as dune walkovers and boat launches; planning and enhancement of beach access points; reinvigorating economically depressed waterfronts; preventing and monitoring beach erosion; providing technical assistance on shore protection and bluff stabilization; providing assistance for local planning; and restoration of natural habitats.

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Dear Laurie,

As participants at the October 4, 2001 meeting, members of the S.T.O.P. organization, registered voters and generally interested property owners we are offering the following advice. If it is the intent of the present "powers that be" to reopen the controversial land rights issue by masking it with the concern offered at the meeting, please be advised that we are older, wiser, more informed and just as determined as we were ten years ago when Pete Visclosky, Save the Dunes Council and a few others felt they could overpower those that have owned and cared for property (yes, and as Herb Read (Save the Dunes Council) was so vocal about the land along Salt Creek); we will be watching all activity concerning this issue. Ten years ago was a living nightmare for those of us that have our lives involved in land; be it one generation or sixth generation Porter County settler descendents. This issue absorbed a tremendous amount of time, energy and private funds. We were required to attend a Senate sub committee hearing in Washington, D.C. Fortunately, those that determine citizens' future, had the wisdom to listen and know that property owners were in fact the ones to heed to. We're giving you the background to what we've already experienced as a forewarning that we will not tolerate any agency to put us through this horrible ordeal again.

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As far as funding is concerned, being aware of the current state of affairs in this country of ours, it does seem as though this \$900,000 could be better spent other than a "study".

Thank you for your time.

Ken & Sharon Fee
3138 Oakwood Street
Portage, In. 46368



WRITTEN COMMENT #21: Sharon Fee (also received by e-mail)
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

See response to Comment #20 (Kenneth Fee, same letter).

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program and Draft EIS Comment Form

What is it with you guys? What part of NO
don't you understand? It was a bad idea
in '95 when you first proposed CZM and it's
still a BAD idea.

We need LESS government not MORE/BIGGER government.
What is with you people? We the PEOPLE have spoken!
So as you're told. Stop the nonsense!

There are several ways to provide comments on the Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Draft EIS.

- Attend public meetings and give your comments directly to IDNR officials
- Return this comment form to the registration desk at the meeting or mail to the address below
- Call toll free 1-866-500-7010
- Fax your comments to: 1-800-917-7490
- Comment via e-mail: coastal@dnr.state.in.us

Name (optional):

Virgil J. Gassaway, DDS

Organization:

Home or Organization Address (circle one):

605 S. CALUMET AVE.

City:

Chesterton

State:

IND

ZIP Code:

46304

Telephone (optional):

E-mail (optional):

Comments should be postmarked by Nov. 5, 2001 and mailed to:

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Attn: Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Toll free: 1-877-928-3755
coastal@dnr.state.in.us



WRITTEN COMMENT #22: Virgil J. Gassoway, dds.
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

BLACHLY, TABOR, BOZIK & HARTMAN

DUANE W. HARTMAN
DAVID L. HOLLENBECK
THOMAS F. MACKE
RANDALL J. ZROMKOSKI
RICHARD J. RUPCICH
CRAIG R. VAN SCHOUWEN

PATRICK A. LYP
JEFFREY S. WRAGE
THAIS ANN BULGER
BRADLEY L. BANKS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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VALPARAISO, INDIANA 46383

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GLENN J. TABOR
JAMES S. BOZIK
OF COUNSEL

QUENTIN A. BLACHLY
(1934-1997)

FORT WAYNE OFFICE
4656 WEST JEFFERSON, SUITE 120
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46804
(219) 459-3288

November 5, 2001

Ms. Lorie Rounds
INDIANA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Water
402 W. Washington St., Rm W-264
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: VLACD Inclusion in Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal
Program

Dear Ms. Rounds:

I initiate this correspondence in connection with the above-captioned matter and in my capacity as legal counsel to the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District. The Board of Directors of the conservancy district voted unanimously to seek inclusion of the conservancy district in the Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

VLACD is located in the lake area north of Valparaiso. The conservancy district was originally formed in 1974 to address malfunctioning septic system problems and drinking water concerns in the Flint-Long-Loomis Lakes area. VLACD constructed and maintains a sanitary sewer collection system and a drinking water distribution system for approximately 1000 customers. VLACD has been actively involved in surface water drainage issues. The conservancy district regulates drainage within its boundaries and also enforces a comprehensive soil erosion and sedimentation ordinance. The conservancy district also enforces the Porter County Wetland Preservation Ordinance within the conservancy district boundaries.

Originally, Loomis Lake drained through Spectacle Lake and into Salt Creek and eventually into Lake Michigan. In the early part of the last century, the Valparaiso Water Department changed the water flow and directed the water from Spectacle and Loomis Lakes into Flint Lake and eventually into the Kankakee River. The

BLACHLY, TABOR, BOZIK & HARTMAN

Ms. Lorie Rounds

November 5, 2001

Page Two

drainage was artificially changed because the water department wanted to utilize Flint Lake as a drinking water reservoir and wanted better control over the lake level. The outlet of Spectacle and Loomis Lake was "reversed" so that water now flows from into Flint Lake. However, the area originally was part of the Lake Michigan Watershed.

The current proposed boundaries for the Lake Michigan Coastal Program coincide with the current Lake Michigan Watershed and exclude the conservancy district. This is unfortunate inasmuch as the lake area north of Valparaiso shares virtually every characteristic of the Lake Michigan Watershed. The problems are the same, and the solutions are interrelated.

Although located south of VLACD, a portion of the City of Valparaiso is located in the Lake Michigan Watershed. Some of the surface water in the Lake Michigan Watershed portion of the City of Valparaiso is actually diverted through the Litzenburger Drain and is currently sent to Flint Lake. The lines of demarcation between the watersheds has been substantially impacted by various surface water drainage projects.

Furthermore, the VLACD sanitary sewer collection system is connected to the City of Valparaiso sewage treatment plant which discharges into Salt Creek and thereby into Lake Michigan returning water to the Lake Michigan Watershed from the conservancy district.

Groundwater generally flows from the lake area north of Valparaiso into the Lake Michigan Watershed area. Obviously, groundwater is unaffected by the watershed boundaries.

VLACD is also in the process of beginning its involvement in the US EPA Phase II regulations regarding surface water drainage issues. It is apparent that compliance with these regulations will necessitate a coordinated effort on surface water drainage issues

BLACHLY, TABOR, BOZIK & HARTMAN

Ms. Lorie Rounds
November 5, 2001
Page Three

with most of the other government units in northern Porter County. Obviously, most of these other governmental units are included in the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and to exclude VLACD would place an unnecessary and unwarranted barrier against cooperation and coordination of programs.

VLACD activities include identification of non-point source pollution problems, wetland preservation, water resource issues and environmental concerns in the region. VLACD has been the recipient of LARE Grants for construction of a sediment trap designed to improve water quality in Flint Lake.

VLACD is in the process of completing a comprehensive watershed management study in coordination with the Valparaiso Stormwater Management Board. I have discussed this matter with Dr. Mark Reshkin who is the current Chairman of the Valparaiso Stormwater Management Board. He is supportive of including VLACD in the Lake Michigan Coastal Program boundaries.

I am enclosing herein a topographic map showing the boundaries of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District. It is respectfully requested that VLACD be included in the final boundaries for the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program. If any additional information is needed in connection with this request, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

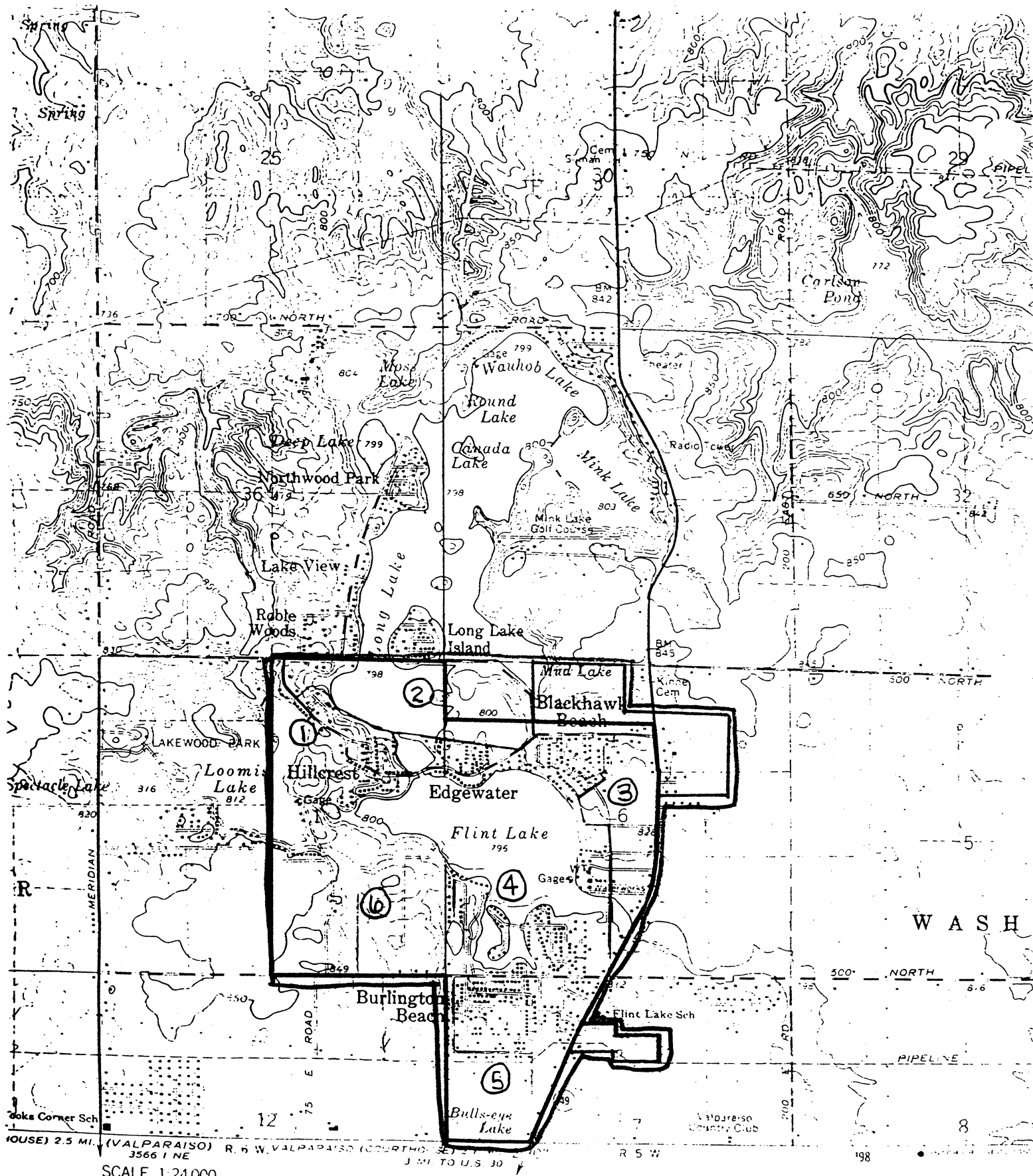
BLACHLY TABOR BOZIK & HARTMAN
Attorneys at Law

By:

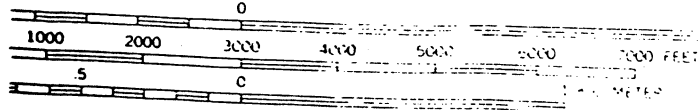

David L. Hollenbeck

DLH/msr
enclosure

SENT REGULAR MAIL AND FAX TO (317) 233-4579



SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

Interstate Route

WRITTEN COMMENT #23: David L. Hollenbeck, for Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

1. Comment regarding inclusion of the area covered by the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District in the program boundary.

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Thank you for your comments concerning the inclusion of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District (VLACD) in the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The work done by the VLACD has resulted in several improvements to the water quality of the Valparaiso lakes area. While we feel the work done by the Conservancy District has led to improved water resource management, the boundary for the Coastal Program must focus on Lake Michigan resources. After careful consideration of your comments and the issues involved, we have decided not to alter the inland boundary to include the Valparaiso lakes.

The original inland boundary was selected to incorporate those areas within the current surface water drainage basin for Indiana's portion of Lake Michigan. The Valparaiso lakes are an important resource for Porter County; however, the surface drainage for the lakes is within the Kankakee River basin. Based on the 1991 *Feasibility Study on Water Quality and Sedimentation in Flint Lake Porter County, Indiana*, the Flint Lake watershed, including the four major point sources, also lies predominately outside the current surface drainage to Lake Michigan and the current Lake Michigan Coastal Program inland boundary.

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to working with the VLACD on projects to improve the Valparaiso lakes area. Exclusion from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program will not hinder the VLACD in forming partnerships with other programs in the Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for your continued efforts to manage and improve the Valparaiso lakes area.

Rounds, Laurie

From: bruce jones [brucejones2001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2001 9:55 PM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Subject: Indiana participation in CZM Program

To: Laurie Rounds, Manager
Coastal Zone Management Program
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington, Rm. W264
Indianapolis, Indiana

I had previous mailed in a comment. I attended the hearing held at the Portage Yauht Club. My comment mailed in was about the need to use the program funds to help prevent combined sewer overflows, and that any other use of these funds would be wasted until the CSO's end.

I would like to change my comments.

I believe Indiana participation in the CZM Program can benefit Indiana, and Lake Michigan.

In N.W. Indiana combined sewer overflows can include non-point source pollutants. Assistance here would help prevent pollution of N.W. Indiana's streams, rivers, creeks, and of Lake Michigan...and the non-point source contaminants do make their way into sewer overflows where are there combined sewer and storm water systems...and there are at least 6 different communities in N.W. Indiana with these combined systems that are affected by non-point source pollution.

Bruce F. Jones, P.O. Box 866, Portage, IN 46368

help

=====

Do You Yahoo!?
Find a job, post your resume.
<http://careers.yahoo.com>

WRITTEN COMMENT #24: Bruce F. Jones (comments have been substituted for other comments previously received on Oct. 4, 2001, at the request of the commenter)
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

Rounds, Laurie

From: Christa Jones [christa@iaswcd.org]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2001 7:48 AM
To: coastal@dnr.state.in.us
Cc: Sandra Wilmore; Sherm Bryant; april-ingle@iaswcd.org; Steve Graber; Edgar Corns
Subject: CZM Program

To: Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204

From: Christa Martin Jones
Executive Director
Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc.
225 South East Street
Suite 740
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Date: November 5, 2001

Re: Support for Coastal Zone Management Program

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts supports Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program, and requests full approval and implementation.

This program will benefit local agencies and organizations currently partnering to protect and enhance coastal resources.

Thanks for your attention.

WRITTEN COMMENT #25: Christa Jones, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation
Districts
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.

November 5, 2001

Laurie Rounds, Program Manager
Lake Michigan Coastal Program Comments
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The Grand Calumet Task Force strongly supports Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The coastal resources of Indiana's Lake Michigan are among the rarest and most threatened in the entire nation. We encourage Indiana's participation in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program since Indiana is one of only two eligible states not taking advantage of it. The program would add more than \$900,000 per year to protect and enhance our coastal resources. More money may be available through other sources for CZM states.

The current proposal is based on existing laws and regulation so there is no need for additional laws and regulations. The goal of developing partnerships with local agencies and organizations fit well with the increasing number of partnerships in Northwest Indiana working in cooperation to protect and enhance our coastal resources and working to improve our quality of life.

The program will also enhance the protection of important historic and cultural resources in the coastal area. We are particularly supportive of this aspect because of our participation in the Calumet Heritage Partnership, a bi-state coalition working to preserve and promote the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Calumet Region of Indiana and Illinois. In addition to protection, CZM promotes appropriate economic development, such as tourism, in the coastal area. This is vital to the future of Northwest Indiana as our economy diversifies.

We look forward to full approval and implementation of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Sincerely,

Bowden Quinn
Executive Director

WRITTEN COMMENT #26: Bowden Quinn, Executive Director, Grand Calumet Task Force
Nov. 5, 2001

Response to Comments:

Thank you for your comments. No written change required.